

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

<http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Storage/HH/IJC/Superior/index.shtml>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAKE SUPERIOR OUTFLOW CONDITIONS

The International Lake Superior Board of Control, under the authority granted to it by the International Joint Commission, has set the Lake Superior outflow to 1,800 cubic meters per second (m^3/s) (63.6 thousand cubic feet per second (tcfs)) for the month of December. This is the outflow recommended by the regulation plan for the month of December and is an increase from the November outflow of 1,750 m^3/s (61.8 tcfs).

The December outflow will be released by discharging about 1,688 m^3/s (59.6 tcfs) through the three hydropower plants and passing most of the remaining flow through the control structure at the head of the St. Marys rapids. The gate setting of the control structure will be maintained at the existing setting equivalent to one-half gate open (four gates open 25 cm, or about 10 inches each). There will be no change to the setting of Gate #1 that supplies the Fishery Remedial Works.

The November water supply for Lake Superior was above average while the supply for Lakes Michigan-Huron was well above average for the month. Currently, the Lake Superior level is about 22 cm (9 inches) below its long-term average beginning of December level and about 9 cm (4 inches) below the level recorded last year. This past month the level of Lake Superior declined by 2 cm (1 inch), 3 cm (1 inch) less than the usual amount for November. The level of Lake Superior is now 4 cm (2 inches) above its chart datum level. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron rose by 7 cm (3 inches) this past month, as a result of the extremely high supply during November. Usually in November, these lakes decline by about 5 cm (2 inches). The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron is about 48 cm (19 inches) below its long-term average beginning of December level, and is now about 5 cm (2 inches) below the level recorded last year. Lakes Michigan-Huron's level is now 9 cm (4 inches) below its chart datum level, but is 28 cm (11 inches) above its record low beginning-of-December level. The Board continues to monitor conditions both on Lake Superior and downstream and will advise the International Joint Commission accordingly on those conditions.

Brigadier General (P) Steven R. Hawkins, Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is the United States Board Member. Mr. Carr McLeod is the Board Member for Canada.

For further information please contact Carl Woodruff as indicated above.

The Internet homepage at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/> provides access to additional information.